

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A fabric for use in papermaking comprising:  
a woven body having respective edge portions on opposite sides of the  
body;  
5 said body and edge portions having a top surface and a bottom surface;  
respective transition points which are subject to flexure between said  
respective edge portions and said body;  
reinforcing coating on said either top or bottom surface; and  
said coating extending from at least one said edge portion over said  
10 transition point and onto a portion of the body.
2. The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating extends  
respectively from both said edge portions over said transition points and onto a  
portion of the body.  
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3. The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating is located  
at said top surface and said bottom surface.
4. The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating on said  
20 body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying  
distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-  
circles or other projections.
5. The fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein said coating on said  
25 body is in a pattern which extends onto a portion of the body at varying  
distances from the transition point and terminates in the shape of curves, semi-  
circles or other projections.
6. The fabric in accordance with claim 4, wherein the pattern on the top  
30 surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.

*Claim 12*

7. The fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein the pattern on the top surface is not aligned with the pattern on the bottom surface.

5 8. The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition point.

10 9. The fabric in accordance with claim 2, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition points.

15 10. The fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein said coating is a polymeric material and serves to reinforce the fabric in an area on both sides of and across the transition points.

11. The fabric in accordance with claim 9 which includes respective guides affixed to the bottom surface of the edge portions.

20 12. The fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein said fabric is used on a papermaker's pulp thickening device.